



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEON VALLEY TREE ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting of the Leon Valley Tree Advisory Board (TAB) at 6:00 PM, on Thursday, July 23, 2015, in the Leon Valley Fire Department Training Room, at 6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, Texas.

I. Poll for Attendance and Determination of a Quorum.

- Staff Liaison: Elizabeth Carol (Present)
- TAB Forester: Mark Kroeze, Alamo Region Urban Forester (Absent)
- Members Present: Thomas Benavides, Denise Berger, Melinda Dawson, Mary Key, and Rich Sarfin
- Members Absent: Irene Baldridge and Diana Sarfin
- Guests: LV Fire Chief Luis Valdez and LV Citizen Matthew Hodde

II. Approval of Minutes - June 9, 2015.

- Minutes were approved with one correction to Item III, Bullet 3, Sub-bullet 1. Original verbiage with correction is as follows (the word "possibly" was added): "A total of 18 trees (13 pecan, 2 live oak, and 3 red oak) to possibly be repurposed were identified and tagged".

III. Discussion of options to save the Live Oak Trees at 5813 and 5901 El Verde Rd.

- Matthew Hodde is a LV citizen and lives at 5813 El Verde Rd, Leon Valley, TX. His parents live next door at 5901 El Verde Rd. He contacted the TAB on July 11, 2015, in an effort to save several live oak trees scheduled to be removed by Bexar County's LC-17 project. There is an oak with a 38" diameter and a cluster of 8 oaks with an average diameter of 8" behind his home and his parent's home respectively. Additionally, he provided the following information:
 - He has already contacted LC-17 Project Engineers Bobby Mengden and Elaiza Alvarez as well as Bexar County Commissioner Paul Elizondo to present his case.
 - Trees are located near the beginning (one house away) of a drainage easement that separates their property and that of the Grissom Rd. commercial property owners. The easement is not part of the main channel of Huebner Creek.
 - This drainage easement does not have flooding issues and works well as constructed.
- TAB input is as follows:
 - Ms. Carol had already contacted Mr. Mengden who responded (July 23, 2015 10:43AM) from an engineering perspective. A copy of the e-mail was provided to Mr. Hodde.
 - Engineering plans already in place may not leave any options to save these trees.
 - Ms. Carol will contact Laurie Hawkins (Certified Arborist, consultant on LC-17 Project) to request a professional assessment on subject trees. This assessment may provide a possible work-around to save the tree(s).

IV. Discussion on types of Tree Damage requiring an emergency response.

- Chief Valdez provided information on how the fire department manages damaged trees and inquired on whether or not the TAB would like to be informed of their findings.
 - Damaged tree limbs that fall from trees on public property are moved off the roadway and reported to Public Works for removal. If the tree limbs fall from private property, they will help the business/homeowner by moving the limb onto their property.
 - There is no city code that covers dead tree removal.
 - Leon Valley is the only Firewise community in Bexar County. Depending on the insurance carrier, those living adjacent to the park/natural areas may benefit from lower homeowner insurance rates.
- TAB input is as follows:
 - TAB would like to be informed of storm damaged trees, especially oaks that are susceptible to oak wilt.
 - Tree outreach/education on removal of dead trees which pose fire and storm damage hazards could be beneficial to homeowners.

V. Commission follow-up discussion on the June 9th tour of LC-17.

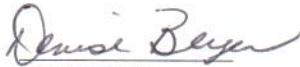
- The list of the trees identified and tagged for possible repurposing on June 9 was sent to several milling companies in order for them to assess their suitability as well as to quote on the milling fees.

VI. Commission discussion on the creation of a webpage on behalf of the TAB.

- TAB members agreed that it would be best to have a "Tree" only webpage that could address items via links such as the following:
 - Report tree limbs on public property to Public Works.
 - Fire Department webpage section addressing issues such as Firewise.
 - El Verde by 2020/Tree Challenge.
 - Identifying city ordinances regarding trees with links.
 - Tree education (e.g., planting, oak wilt, etc.).

VII. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.
- Unless otherwise noted, the next meeting of the TAB is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2015, at 6:00 PM, at the Leon Valley Conference Center.


Chairperson